

BAGRUS BOSCH, 1816 (PISCES, SILURIFORMES): PROPOSAL TO
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In a study of bagrid catfishes from Lake Tanganyika, we have uncovered a potential nomenclatural problem that stems from the use by Cuvier, 1816 [Nov.], in *Le Règne Animal*, of a French vernacular 'Les Bagres' in lieu of a properly latinised name. Cuvier's text entry 'Les Bagre' (p. 204) is an obvious printing error for 'Les Bagres'. 'Bagres' appears in the table of contents (p. viii) and the text entry in Cuvier, 1829, ed. 2, p. 292, is corrected to Les Bagres. Jayaram, 1956, contended that *Porcus*, attributed by him to Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1818, should replace *Bagrus* Valenciennes, in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1839. We find, however, that *Bagrus* and *Porcus* were both simultaneously proposed in Bosch, 1816 [Sept.]. In order to avoid possible confusion in generic and family names we propose acceptance of *Bagrus* Bosch, 1816, designation of *Silurus bajad* Forsskal, 1775, as its type species, and also request that the name BAGRIDAE be added to the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology.

2. Jayaram, 1956, pp. 248–249, correctly pointed out that Oken's 1817 emendation of Cuvier's (1816, p. 204) vernacular 'Les Bagres' to *Bagre* is admissible under the Code. However, Cloquet, 1816, pp. 161–163 [Dec.] had earlier taken the same action. Under the vernacular 'bagre' he referred to Cuvier's recently published genus 'des bagres', described the taxon, and listed and described three species. The first of these was 'Le Bagre', *Bagre pimelodinus*, of which he cited *Silurus bagre*, Linn. and *Pimelodus bagre* Lacep. as synonyms. The description applies to the species currently known as *Bagre bagre* (Linnaeus). The type species is *Silurus bagre* Linnaeus, 1766, by absolute tautonymy. *Bagre* Cloquet, 1816, is a senior synonym of *Bagre* Oken, 1817, *Felichthys* Swainson, 1839, and *Ailurichthys* Baird & Girard, 1854. *Bagre* is in current use for a genus of New World catfishes in the family ARIIDAE (=TACHYSURIDAE of Jayaram, 1956). [Contrary to the indication by Jayaram, 1956, p. 248, *Bagre bagre* (Linnaeus) is not identical with *Silurus marinus* Mitchill=*Bagre marinus* (Mitchill)].

3. Jordan, 1919, p. 194, regarded *Bagre* and *Bagrus* as homonyms, both being forms of Les Bagres Cuvier. We agree with Jayaram, 1956, p. 249, however, that under Article 56a of the Code they are not homonyms.

4. Bleeker, 1862, p. 9 erroneously cited Cuvier as author of *Bagrus*, and listed *Bagrus bajad* Cuv. as type species. Jordan, 1919, p.

194, Jayaram, 1956, p. 249, and others have attributed *Bagrus* to Valenciennes, in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1839, p. 388, who included in it a complex assortment of 58 species now assigned to about 14 genera and three families (Jayaram, 1954). No type species was designated by Valenciennes, but Jordan, 1919, pp. 194–195, listed *Silurus bajad* Forsskål as type by subsequent designation. However, there are several proposals of *Bagrus*, some available, prior to that by Valenciennes.

5. The first use of *Bagrus* known to us was as a *nomen nudum* by Rafinesque, 1815, p. 89 (Neave, 1939). The next appearance of *Bagrus* was by Bosc, 1816 [Sept.] p. 147, who wrote: 'BAGRE, *Bagrus*. Espèce du genre SILURE, que Cuvier regarde comme devant former un sous-genre, à raison de ce qu'elle a deux rangées de dents à la mâchoire supérieure, une intermaxillaire et une vomérienne; son crâne est aussi plus lisse, et sa plaque de la nuque plus petite. (B.)'

6. Except for the entry *Bagrus*, this material is identical with Cuvier, 1816, [Nov.], which Bosc, 1816 [Sept.], preceded; thus, Bosc (and also Cloquet, see below) presumably had access to Cuvier's manuscript or to proof sheets. *Bagrus* Bosc is interpreted as a generic name latinised from *bagre*. The description is not clearly identifiable, and no available specific name is cited (*bagre* as used is apparently a vernacular name). It was apparently proposed for one only of the species of the genus *Silurus*. In the absence of any named species we propose that *Silurus bajad* Forsskål be designated as type species of *Bagrus* Bosc, 1816, by subsequent monotypy. No species had previously been placed in *Bagrus* Bosc, 1816, although *B. bajad* and other species have been ascribed to *Bagrus* of later authors.

7. Fleming, 1822, p. 387, employed *Bagrus* instead of 'Les Bagres' for the fifth of the ten subgenera of *Silurus* L. indicated by Cuvier, 1816, pp. 201–207. Fleming included a single species, *Silurus bagre* Linnaeus, 1766. If *Bagrus* Fleming, 1822, is regarded as the proposal of a new name, then *Silurus bagre* Linnaeus, 1766, is the type species by monotypy, *Bagrus* Fleming is an objective junior synonym of *Bagre* Cloquet, 1816, in the ARIIDAE, and a junior homonym of *Bagrus* Bosc, 1816.

8. *Bagrus* was proposed again by Rüppell, 1829, p. 5, also latinised from the French vernacular 'Les Bagres' employed by Cuvier in the two editions of *Le Règne Animal*, as a genus including the Nilotic species *B. bayad* (= *bajad*), equivalent to *Porcus bayad* of Geoffroy. Rüppell also listed *Porcus docmac* = *Silurus docmak* Forsskål, but it is not clear whether or not he regarded this nominal form as a species of *Bagrus*. In the absence of any known previous type designation, we select *Silurus bajad* Forsskål as type species of *Bagrus* Rüppell. *Bagrus*, with attribution to Cuvier, was listed by Bonaparte, 1831, p. 180, without named species or description as a subordinate group (subgenus) of *Pimelodus*, subfamily SILURINI of family SILURIDAE; it is a *nomen nudum*. *Bagrus* was used by Griffith & Smith, 1834, p. 403, as a sub-

genus of *Pimelodus*. The account is a translation from the second edition of Cuvier's *Le Règne Animal*, 1829, with the name *Bagrus* added. One section of *Bagrus* was characterised by eight barbels and an oblong and depressed head; included species were given as: '*Sil. bayad*, Forsk. *Porcus Bayad.*, Geoff., Egypt, Poiss., pl. xv, f. 1 and 2. *Sil. docmac*, Forsk., Geoffr. ib. 3, 4. *Pimelodus aor*, Buchan, XX, 68. In the absence of any known previous type designation, we select *Silurus bajad* Forsskål as type species of *Bagrus* Griffith & Smith.

9. Jayaram, 1956, apparently following Jordan, 1919, p. 107, argued that *Porcus* Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1818, p. 303, is the correct and oldest available name for the genus, usually known as *Bagrus*, that includes the species *bajad* Forsskål and *docmak* Forsskål. Etienne F. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire is clearly the responsible author of *Porcus*, but the determination of the publication date is not straightforward.

10. Sherborn, 1897, attempted to establish dates for the several parts of the Natural History portion of Savigny's *Description de l'Egypte*, published through the period 1809 to 1829. Volume 1, part 1, *Poissons du Nil* by Geoffroy, pp. 1-52, was published in 1809; according to Dr. W. R. Taylor who examined it, there is no mention of *Porcus*. *Suite des Poissons du Nil* (pp. 265-310) and *Poissons de la Mer Rouge* (pp. 311-343) of vol. 2 of the *Hist. Nat. de l'Egypte*, written by Etienne and edited and completed by his son Isidore Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, were published in 1827. On p. 295 Isidore said that the name *Porcus* was first applied by his father '... mais que mon père avoit déjà appelé *porcus*'. Thus, *Porcus* should be credited to Etienne. Isidore described *Porcus* on p. 302, with three species. Jordan, 1919, p. 107, gave publication dates 1817, 1818 for the plates of *Suite de l'Histoire des Poissons du Nil*. But examination by us and by Dr Taylor of two copies of this volume reveal names but no date. We are unable to verify Jordan's inference that dated plates existed and therefore assume that Sherborn's date of 1827 applies to both text and plates.

11. The first use of *Porcus* is by Bosc, 1816 [Sept.], p. 332, who wrote: 'BAYAD, *Porcus*. Genre de poisson établi par Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, dans le grand ouvrage de la commission de l'Institut d'Égypte, aux dépens des SILURES de Linnaeus. Il renferme deux especes: les BAYADS FITILE et DOCMAC, qui sont figurés dans cet ouvrage. (B.)' On the same page under BAYATTE Bosc recorded: 'Poisson du genre SILURE, observé dans le Nil par Sonnini, et figuré pl. 27 de son *Voyage en Egypte*. C'est le *silurus bajad* de Forskaël [sic]. Il atteint la grandeur d'un homme, mais sa chair est peu estimée. V. PIMELODE et BAYAD. (B.)'. The cross index clearly links the variant spellings BAYAD and BAYATTE. In view of attribution to Geoffroy, listing of included species, descriptive indication, and reference to a published figure we interpret this as an acceptable proposal of the genus *Porcus* E. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, in Bosc, 1816. In the absence of any known type designation we select *Silurus bajad* Forsskål, 1775, as type species.

12. *Porcus* was proposed again in Cloquet, 1816 [Dec.], pp. 52–53, once more being attributed to Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire. The genus was named, described, two species (*Silurus bajad* Forsk., and *S. docmak*, Forsk.) were described, and one is noted as illustrated on plate 15 of *Poissons d’Egypte*. It is apparent that this plate, though presumably not published, had already been engraved and was seen by Cloquet. In the absence of any known type designation we select *Silurus bajad* Forsskål, 1775, as type species of *Porcus* Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, in Cloquet, 1816. Thus, *Porcus* Cloquet, 1816, is a junior homonym and a junior objective synonym of *Porcus* Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, in Bosc, 1816.

13. It follows from the above that *Bagrus* Bosc, 1816, is a senior homonym of *Bagrus* Fleming, 1822, *Bagrus* Rüppell, 1829, *Bagrus* Griffith & Smith, 1834, and *Bagrus* Valenciennes, 1839 (in Cuvier & Valenciennes). *Bagrus* Bosc, 1816, and *Porcus* Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, in Bosc, 1816, both described in the same work, are simultaneous objective synonyms, both having the same type species (see 6 and 11 above). In the interest of stability in nomenclature we as first revisers select the more familiar name *Bagrus* to have priority over *Porcus*.

14. *Bagre* Cloquet, 1816, is the available senior synonym of a genus-group taxon of the ARIIDAE that includes as type species *Silurus bagre* Linnaeus, 1766. *Bagrus* Fleming, 1822, a homonym of *Bagrus* Bosc and a junior synonym of *Bagre* Cloquet, 1816, and *Bagre* Oken, 1817, is referred to the ARIIDAE.

15. BAGRIDAE dates from Bleeker, 1858, p. 49, as cohors Bagrini, and has since been widely used as a subfamily or family name for a group of African and Asiatic freshwater fishes; its included constituents vary greatly. Among its synonyms, the oldest family-group names available appear to be those proposed by Bleeker, 1858 and 1862: BAGRICHTHYIDAE Bleeker, 1858, p. 49 (as subfamily Bagrichthyoidei, based on *Bagrichthys* Bleeker, 1858); CLAROTEIDAE Bleeker, 1862, p. 4 (as stirps CLAROTEINI, based on *Clarotes* Kner, 1855); RITIDAE Bleeker, 1862, p. 8 (as phalanx Ritae, based on *Rita* Bleeker, 1858). Other family-group names and the first uses known to us include: CHRYSICHTHYINAE Regan, 1911; PORCINAE Fowler, 1915; MYSTIDAE Fowler, 1935; AUCHENOGLANIDINAE, BAGROIDINAE, GEPHYROGLANIDINI, and PELTEOBAGRINI Jayaram, 1966.

16. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is requested to:

- (1) place *Bagrus* Bosc, 1816 (gender: masculine), type species by designation herein, *Silurus bajad* Forsskål, 1775, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
- (2) place the following specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *bajad* Forsskål, 1775, as published in the binomen

- Silurus bajad* (specific name of type species of *Bagrus* Bosc, 1816);
- (b) *bagre* Linnaeus, 1766, as published in the binomen *Silurus bagre* (specific name of type species of *Bagre* Cloquet, 1816, of *Bagre* Oken, 1817, and of *Bagrus* Fleming, 1822);
- (3) place BAGRIDAE Bleeker, 1858 (as cohors Bagrini), type genus *Bagrus* Bosc, 1816, on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology.

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